

On a new Silurid Fish from South Cameroon.

over alive from the mouths of the Niger. *F. arnoldi* is allied to *F. bivittatus*, Lönnb., and *F. loennbergii*, Blgr., but differs from both in the more numerous anal rays.

Haplochilus liberiensis.

Depth of body $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 times in total length, length of head 4 times. Snout a little shorter than eye, the diameter of which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ times in length of head; lower jaw projecting a little beyond upper; interorbital width half length of head. Dorsal 11, originating above fourth or fifth ray of anal and sixteenth scale of lateral line, and at equal distance from head and from root of caudal. Anal 15-16. Pectoral about $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head. Caudal rounded, nearly as long as head. Caudal peduncle twice as long as deep. Scales 33 in longitudinal series, 20 round body; an interrupted series of lateral line pits. Yellowish to dark olive, with darker blotches; dorsal and anal fins with small blackish spots.

Total length 36 mm.

Two female specimens from Monrovia, Liberia, presented by Mr. Arnold.

This species is very closely allied to *H. cameronensis*, Blgr., differing in the more anterior position of the dorsal fin.

III.—*Description of a new Silurid Fish of the Genus Synodontis from South Cameroon.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

Synodontis pardalis.

Depth of body $4\frac{1}{3}$ to $4\frac{2}{3}$ times in total length, length of head $3\frac{1}{3}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ times. Head $1\frac{1}{3}$ times as long as broad, granulate above; snout obtusely pointed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{2}{3}$ times as long as postocular part of head; eye supero-lateral, its diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ times in length of head, $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{3}$ times in interorbital width; præmaxillary teeth forming a short and broad band; movable mandibular teeth about half diameter of eye, 15 to 20 in number; maxillary barbel not distinctly margined, extending to anterior third of pectoral spine; mandibular barbels with tubercular branches, outer twice as long as inner and half as long as head. Gill-openings not extending downwards beyond root of pectoral spine. Occipito-nuchal shield granulate like the occiput, obtusely tectiform, a little

longer than broad, with posterior processes truncate. Humeral process granulate, not keeled, little longer than broad, obtusely pointed, extending nearly as far back as occipito-nuchal process. Skin without villosities. Dorsal I 7; spine as long as head, feebly curved, striated, serrated behind. Adipose dorsal as long as or a little shorter than its distance from rayed dorsal. Anal IV 7. Pectoral spine strongly serrated on both sides. Caudal fin deeply notched, crescentic. Caudal peduncle about as long as deep. Pale brown above, white beneath; head with numerous small round dark brown spots; body with large round dark brown spots, the ground-colour between them forming a light network; fins white, with more or less regular black bands, 5 to 7 across dorsal, 3 or 4 across ventral and anal, 7 to 11 on caudal.

Total length 200 mm.

Mr. G. L. Bates obtained several specimens of this handsome fish at a waterfall of the Libi River, near the Ja River (Congo System), into which it flows.

IV.—On a new Genus of Snakes from Brazil.

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

AMONG some snakes from Brazil, submitted to me for identification by Dr. Vital Brazil, Director of the Serumtherapeutic Institute of S. Paulo, I was highly pleased to find a large specimen which represents a species which has hitherto escaped attention. In its physiognomy, head-shields, vertical pupil, and dentition it agrees with the genus *Oxyrhopus*, differing, however, in the scaling of the body, the scales being in 25 rows, those of the vertebral row distinctly enlarged. After some hesitation, I have decided not to place the snake in the genus *Oxyrhopus*, but to propose for it a new genus, which may be called *Rhachidelus*.

Rhachidelus brazili.

Eye moderately large, its diameter equal to its distance from the oral border and $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the snout, which is rounded, rather strongly depressed, and scarcely projecting. Rostral once and two-thirds as broad as deep, the portion visible from above measuring one-third its distance from the frontal; internasals nearly as long as broad, two-thirds the length of the præfrontals; frontal pentagonal, as long as